

Dear Neighbor:

Small and large businesses, working families, investors and students agree, job creation and economic growth is the number one challenge facing the state. Today, we compete as much with Bangalore, India as we do with Boston, and we must understand that while our well-educated workforce helped lead the way last decade, we are now being outpaced in the global economy.

Several key areas must be addressed if Connecticut is to remain an economic force. We must create a better business climate, including the elimination of the tax on manufacturing equipment—a levy that puts us at a competitive disadvantage. We must connect our educational institutions to cutting-edge industries and provide incentives for the best and the brightest to remain here after graduation.

There's an important role for Connecticut in this new economy—*if* we can respond to our changing world. If we unleash our creativity, intellect and imagination, if we embrace education and innovation, we can grow the jobs of the 21st century—but we must recognize that the future is now.

Sincerely,

  
Gayle Slossberg  
State Senator



State Senator

**Gayle  
Slossberg**

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## State Senator Gayle Slossberg

# Connecticut Jobs for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

*This year, my legislative agenda—and that of my Senate Democratic colleagues—was about jobs, jobs, jobs! Our recently passed major jobs creation bill is a broad plan with many details. Some of the highlights include:*

**Eliminating** the manufacturing machinery and equipment property tax to attract more manufacturing jobs to Connecticut, especially the cutting-edge precision manufacturing that is critical to our future economy.

**Increasing** jobs by better bridging promising businesses to the university expertise that can help bring innovative products to market.

**Turning** imagination into jobs through the establishment of a center for entrepreneurship that will assist promising technologies—including fuel cells—develop in our state.

**Funding** increases for incumbent worker training programs provided by regional workforce development boards.

**Creating** business incubators to help grow the big ideas of the small businesses that will fuel our future economy and improve job creation across the state.

**Creating** Development Research and Economic Assistance Matching (DREAM) grants that supplement and increase small businesses' access to federal research grants.

**Establishing** a pro-active Business Advocate's office that will serve as a clearinghouse of contacts for businesses to access government and other assistance and cut red tape.

**Encouraging** more engineering and doctoral research graduates to stay and work in Connecticut through a scholar-to-work system to foster innovation and creativity to compete in the growing world marketplace.

**Establishing** a partnership with the business community—so that students will have access to mentors and resources in the economically critical areas of math and science—that will help Connecticut create a better pool of skilled labor for the future of our economy and improve our edge in the intellectual capital of our workforce.

**Offering** some of the best tax incentives in the nation to attract movie companies to film their productions here in Connecticut.

### More Success in Economic Development

I was very pleased to see that Governor Rell included an economic development proposal I have been championing in her midterm budget package. This successful initiative, which will be effective July 1, 2006, gives tax credits for businesses that create new jobs here in Connecticut or hire laid-off workers. Businesses can claim a credit if they create at least 50 new, full-time jobs, hire new employees for these jobs, and retain them on the payroll for at least 12 months. Businesses could receive up to 25% of the state income tax withheld from these workers. The new legislation also gives a \$1,500 per-worker tax credit to companies that hire certain previously laid off workers. I am so proud to have my hallmark jobs initiative enacted into law.